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Presented to the N. A. A. S. of Phila.
by Hon. Alex. S. Johnson
through Mr. [unclear]

In Memoriam.

ALEXANDER BRYAN JOHNSON.

OBITUARY NOTICES

OF

ALEXANDER BRYAN JOHNSON,
1786-1867

Who was Born

IN ENGLAND, MONDAY, MAY 29TH, 1786.

And Died

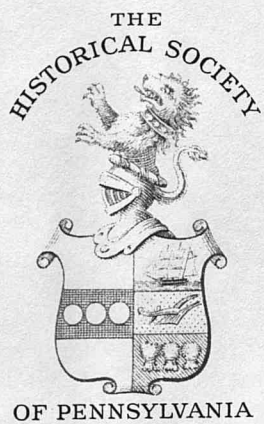
AT HIS HOME IN UTICA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1867.

UTICA, N. Y.

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OBITUARY NOTICES.

Death of Alexander B. Johnson.

[From the *Utica Morning Herald* of Sept. 10, 1867.]

Last evening, in the fullness of years and of labors, **ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON** died. He was one of our oldest citizens, and had been closely connected with the financial interests of the community for half a century. As President of the Ontario Branch Bank, he earned a reputation as a financier as wide as the country. His literary taste was excellent, and his culture broad. As an author, he had accomplished more than most men who give their lives to literature. His writings on financial subjects always commanded attention. They often related to themes of philosophical scope and reach. A volume on the "Philosophy of Words," published some years since, possessed rare merit.

Mr. JOHNSON has not been active as a politician, but has written often on political topics. He was generally a Democrat, but in 1840 he predicted the direction of the current and went with it. In 1861, he protested against the war, but he refused to follow the Democratic party in its shilly-shally policy, and few men rendered more active or efficient support to the finances of the government.

He was a gentleman of remarkable powers, of rare accuracy and extent of observation, and of unimpeached integrity. His acquaintance with men was extensive. His experience was varied, and the lessons his long life taught him, he bestowed cheerfully on those who possessed his confidence.

Another day our readers may expect a sketch more worthy of his long and honorable life in our city.

[From the *Utica Daily Observer*, Sept. 10, 1867.]

It is our mournful duty, to-day, to record the death of one of our oldest and most respected citizens, **ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON**. He died last evening, at the ripe age of 82 years. He had been in a feeble state of health for the past four months, and confined to his house for about a month, but his immediate departure was not indicated until Sunday evening, when he began to sink rapidly. His death was from the natural failure of the physical system, consequent upon advanced age. His strong intellect remained unimpaired to the last, and his death was painless and peaceful.

Mr. JOHNSON's long life has been almost entirely spent in our City. He was born in England, in 1786, and passed his earlier years in London. He came to America and became a resident of this place about 1800, being then fourteen years of age. His father, Bryan Johnson, had located here the previous year, and soon became a thriving citizen and a prominent merchant in the new settlement. Tradition ascribes to Mr. Bryan Johnson the honor of giving the name "Utica" to the infant city. Thus, Mr. **ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON** was a resident of Utica for the long period of sixty-seven years. He was at first a clerk in his father's store, and afterwards assumed the entire management of it. At a later date he was prominent in the organization of the old Utica Insurance Company, an institution now remembered only by our oldest citizens. Some time after the establishment of the Ontario Branch Bank in Utica, he became interested in it, and for many years was its chief manager. During the long period that he gave his personal supervision to its affairs, it was a highly prosperous and successful institution. Since the closing of the Bank, he has occupied himself exclusively in the management of his large private interests and in the pursuit of his favorite studies.

Mr. JOHNSON wrote extensively on literary, political, and other subjects. Several elaborate works on the science of language, and the science of banking, and a large number of political pamphlets, with newspaper contributions sufficient to fill many volumes, are among his printed remains. For the past two or three years, he had been engaged in an autobiographical memoir, which he left in a finished condition, and which, it is to be hoped, will be preserved in a printed form. He was a person of marked and

peculiar character, just and upright in every relation of life, kind, indulgent, and affectionate to all within his widely-extended family circle, and eminently sagacious in business matters, accumulating a large fortune by fair dealing, and improving and preserving it by prudence and judicious management.

We hope at an early day to be able to publish a more extended notice of the lamented deceased.

[From the Utica Daily Observer of Sept. 12, 1867.]

The death of our venerable fellow citizen, ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON, Esq., has evoked from the pens of two of our most respected townsmen, the Tributes which we publish to-day. While one narrates the incidents of his life and defines clearly the features of his long career, the other kindly but accurately measures the character of Mr. JOHNSON. What is wisely and well said of a man who has occupied for years the prominence Mr. JOHNSON enjoyed, need not be commended to the perusal of our readers.

Mr. Alexander B. Johnson.

[From the Utica Morning Herald of Sept. 12, 1867.]

The following obituary notice of the late ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON, was prepared by a gentleman of this city who has enjoyed an acquaintance of half a century with the deceased:

Mr. JOHNSON was born at Gosport, in England, on the 29th of May, 1786, but spent his boyhood in London. His father, Mr. Bryan Johnson, removed to America in 1797, and in that year came to Utica, and established himself in the somewhat rude trading and mercantile business of that time. He was very successful, and held an honorable position among the leading men of that "formation period." His store was on the north side of Whitesboro street, between Genesee and Division streets. He retired from business in 1807 or 1808, with an ample fortune.

Mr. JOHNSON came from England to Utica in the spring of 1801. He was associated with his father, not, technically, as a partner, but as having all things in common. They had no separate or different interests. His earliest important individual enter-

prise, was the establishment of a large glass factory, on the shore of Seneca lake near the village of Geneva. He had previously been interested in a similar factory at Vernon. He engaged in this undertaking with the energy, activity and quiet sagacity which have distinguished him through life. He traveled, over the rough roads of that day, when and wherever any useful information, or necessary means could be obtained. In one of his journeys he made the acquaintance, in a stage carriage, of Mr. John Greig, of Canandaigua, who from that time until his death, was one of Mr. JOHNSON'S warmest friends. Mr. Greig became interested in his project, and not long afterwards assembled his friends at his house to meet Mr. J., and after hearing a statement of his plans, he and they filled his subscription list, taking a large proportion of the stock of the company. By his own personal efforts, and with great labor, and through many difficulties and discouragements, Mr. J. put the factory in successful operation, buying for its use between two and three hundred acres of the best land on that beautiful lake. Finding that his distant residence prevented him from giving the concern such constant supervision as it required, he sold his stock, without loss, to his associates, and retired. Mr. JOHNSON was then only about twenty-three or twenty-four years old, and he justly referred with satisfaction to this his first considerable and successful business enterprise.

In 1811 he went to New York, where he remained the greater part of two years, making investments in bank stocks, and interesting himself in financial affairs generally. He boarded at the same house with General Bloomfield, United States commanding officer in the city. The General received a dispatch express from Washington, and with it in his hands, announced to the gentlemen at the table that war existed between the United States and Great Britain. This news spread rapidly through the city, producing great consternation. The timid expected that the British navy would bury the town in ruins. Mr. JOHNSON immediately sold his bank stock at a pretty large sacrifice. He did it upon the principle upon which he always acted—"to accept the first loss." As it happened, however, if he had held the stock for a very short time, he would have met no loss at all.

While in New York, and early in 1813, he wrote and published a small volume entitled "An inquiry into the nature of value and

of capital, and into the operations of Government loans, banking institutions and private credit," with an appendix containing "an inquiry into the laws which regulate the rate of interest and the price of stocks." Mr. JOHNSON has said that in reviewing the little book during our civil war, he saw no reason to change the views which he therein expressed during the war of 1812.

In the spring of 1813 he visited Washington, and was present at the inauguration of President Madison. Soon afterwards he returned to Utica, and made it his home for life. The Bank of Utica was just then organizing, and he and his father became large stockholders. This institution was so exceedingly prosperous that they were compensated many fold for the loss sustained by the panic sale of their New York stocks. From 1815 to 1819 he was engaged in the management of the Utica Insurance Company, the charter of which, as he contended, gave it banking as well as insurance powers, and he acted accordingly. This created active and persevering hostility on the part of neighboring banks. They endeavored to prevent the circulation of his notes, and to embarrass him in every possible way. He conducted the war with vigor, power and skill, and by his sole unaided efforts wound up the affairs of the company with but a trifling loss to the stockholders—paying dividends and returning nearly the whole of a paid up capital of \$350,000. The court finally decided that the charter did not confer banking powers.

At this time, when thirty-three years of age, Mr. JOHNSON commenced the study of law in the office of his friend, Judge Nathan Williams, and pursued it persistently until he was admitted to the bar—in three years as an attorney, and in six years as counselor.

In June, 1819, he was appointed a director of the Ontario Branch Bank, and in September of that year, he was appointed its President, which office he retained until the expiration of its charter in December, 1855—a period of 37 years. Here it was that Mr. JOHNSON performed the great business labor of his life. When he was appointed President, the notes of the bank were not taken at all in Utica, and were sold at $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount in New York. Such was the public confidence in his integrity and financial ability, that the notes almost immediately rose to par, and obtained an extensive circulation. From that day forward the Ontario Branch Bank was one of the most prosperous

institutions in this or any other State. It was conducted upon sound principles, and experienced almost no losses. It had the perfect confidence of the public and its stockholders were enriched. It is well known that upon the expiration of its charter, it was merged in a new bank formed under the general banking law, with the name of "The Ontario Bank," of which Mr. JOHNSON was also President.

In 1852, by reason of severe domestic affliction, and consequent illness and incapacity for business, Mr. J. was obliged to take a voyage to Europe. During his absence, he, of course, could not exercise a personal supervision of the affairs of the bank, and it is believed that he never afterward assumed the direct personal management of its concerns, by which, previously, they had always been conducted. He took active part in organizing the new bank; and when, as he supposed, it was placed upon a sure foundation, with a prospect of a successful career, he ceased in part from his labors, and left details in the hands of other officers. Without fault of his, the institution soon became insolvent, and in July, 1857, he discovered it to be in ruins. Though overwhelmed by this great and unexpected calamity, and bearing the weight of more than three score years and ten, he devoted himself with all the industry, energy and sagacity of his best years, to save all that could be saved from the wreck; and it was owing in a great degree to the extraordinary labor which he performed previous to the appointment of a Receiver in the following September, that that officer was finally able to pay all the bill-holders and other creditors of that bank in full and return a trifle to the stockholders.

Prominent and distinguished as Mr. JOHNSON was as a banker, he regarded his reputation and success in that character as a matter of secondary interest to himself. He said that he adopted that profession in order that he "might have time and opportunity to write." He, however, allowed no writing to interfere with the duties and objects of his professional pursuits. He wrote several treatises upon the subjects of banking and finance, which attracted attention in bank and commercial circles, and received high commendation from those who were best qualified to judge of their merits. It is doubtful whether any man in our country understood the principles which govern or should govern all financial affairs better

than he did, and he was eminently practical in their application. Yet, though he devoted so much time and study to such subjects, and never neglected or postponed a call of business, he wrote so early as 1820, "The great and prominent study of my life has been language with reference to its meaning in something other than words;" and in 1825 he wrote, "I have long been engaged on what I may say has been the principal effort of my life—my studies in relation to human intellect." The study of language, in the sense in which he used it, was a study of the human intellect. In 1828 he published a book entitled "The Philosophy of Human Knowledge, or a Treatise on Language." This was the result of years of profound thought and study. He believed that almost every paragraph contained a statement or an elucidation of an important principle. The book interested a few minds deeply, and they could hardly find words strong enough to express their thanks and approbation; but it was too abstruse to interest the general reader, and its circulation was limited. The style of the work was condensed in a remarkable degree. Mr. JOHNSON, in all his publications, wrote with conciseness, precision and directness. He used as few words as possible, but those were selected with care, and exactly expressed his meaning. It would be difficult to find less verbiage in the writings of any author.

In 1830 he published "The Title and Plan of a new Dictionary." This he delivered as a lecture before the American Lyceum in New York, and it was published among the papers of that Society. He was engaged several years on the work of the dictionary itself, contemplating "an improved dictionary" in full; but he never quite completed his design. He said that afterwards several books supplied some of the requirements of his plan, and that the most remarkable approximation to it was "Roget's Thesaurus," published in London in 1852. "The dictionary," he says, "was not a suggestion of knowledge, but of ignorance." He found difficulty "in striving after conciseness" in his writings, and to aid himself in this respect, *made a dictionary* upon new principles. This is not the place to describe his plan. The work is alluded to, to illustrate, in part, the character of Mr. JOHNSON'S mind, and as evidence of his great mental industry, and of his manifold intellectual powers and attainments. In connection with this subject, and to place the merit of Mr.

JOHNSON'S literary labors in a more striking light, it should be mentioned that he possessed none of the advantages of early education and culture. At intervals he attended schools (not of a high order) in and near London, before he was fourteen years of age, and this was all the school education he ever received. All else he achieved for himself. His thoughts and opinions, and his mode of expressing them were his own. No man was ever more strictly original. If he expressed the views of other minds he did it ignorantly. His pen was never idle. His correspondence was very extensive, and he wrote frequently for newspapers and periodicals; but his contributions were by no means a part of the common light literature of the day. They were the result of study and deep reflection; and very many of them contained lessons of wisdom and gems of beauty.

Many years ago he delivered here, a series of lectures to young men, and published them in a small volume. Young men may look long and far before finding pleasanter and wiser instruction than is contained in that little book.

Mr. JOHNSON wrote much upon the subject of politics, though he was never a partisan or a politician. He said he "was never a disciple of any party, and hence never wrote for victory but for the elicitation of truth." He was decidedly demonstrative in his sentiments and opinions, but they were always the result of the study and investigation of general principles.

He was a delegate to the Baltimore Convention, in 1835, which nominated Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency; and in the following fall was offered the nomination of Member of Congress, which he declined.

In 1857 he published an octavo volume of 400 pages, entitled "A Guide to a Right Understanding of our American Union; or Political, Economical and Literary Miscellanies, Dedicated to the Young Men of America." This was chiefly a collection and reprint of papers which he had written for various periodicals. They were arranged in chapters, and related to "The Negro Question and Territorial Government;" "The Nature of our Confederacy;" "The Acquisition of New Territory;" "The Relative Merits of Existing Parties;" "A United States Bank;" "State Constitutions;" "Sumptuary Legislation;" "Public Improvements;" and ten papers upon miscellaneous subjects. These (being only a part, and not the greater part of Mr. JOHNSON'S

published literary productions,) are mentioned as further evidence of his high and uncommon intellectual character. That a man thrown early into the active, and what with most men would necessarily be the absorbing business of life, should accomplish so much in literature, and accomplish it so well, and especially as it was accomplished without preparatory culture, is extraordinary, and indeed wonderful.

Mr. JOHNSON never replied to any attacks or criticisms upon his writings. He shrank from all personal controversy. If possible, he avoided it in relation to all matters, if avoidance was consistent with the maintenance of right and duty. He was diffident and sensitive in a degree painful to himself. He deeply regretted his extreme reticence of character, and his invincible repugnance to general social intercourse, and especially lamented his fixed habit of relying upon his own opinions without consulting the opinions of others. This prevented him from working harmoniously with other men.

His solitary manners and habits caused him to be misunderstood in many things. He was aware that he had the reputation of being mainly devoted to making money. He said if that had been his leading object, he should have chosen another profession and pursued a different course. He wanted money "for independence, to *obtain time to write*, and for the comfort of himself and family." He never speculated, and, as he said, "never after early life, put forth efforts to make money." He took "care of his money, and it made itself." He left a large fortune, but it was the result of vigilant care, gradual accumulation and wise investment. The temptations of wealth never withdrew Mr. JOHNSON for a moment from the paths of industry, integrity and morality. If there can be degrees of honesty, he possessed it in the very highest degree. He was scrupulously and undeviatingly honest in all that he did and said, and in all his words and actions never varied a line from the truth. His precision and exactness of statement were remarkable. It gave him great pain if he supposed that any words of his misled or made a *false* impression. He carefully avoided exaggeration. His manner of life was pure and exemplary. He was temperate always, even among the temptations of youth—a teetotaler before teetotalism was heard of.

As a son, husband and father, he was devotedly kind and affectionate. His tender and assiduous care of his father and

mother in their old age, was beautiful and affecting. His loving kindness in his family and domestic circle was overflowing and perpetual.

Upon religious subjects, Mr. JOHNSON entertained opinions peculiar to himself; and those opinions he thought others had no right to question or meddle with. He insisted upon the widest toleration of opinion upon this and all other subjects of difference among men. He said that he was "tolerant even of intolerance." He received, with interest and a teachable spirit, Christian instruction and ordinances; and declared it to be a special duty of the young to attend the divine services of Sunday. He said that if he was to go through life again, he would not give employment to any young man who did not habitually attend church.

Mr. J. has written an autobiography, which contains ample materials for a biography which would be very interesting to all who knew him; and it is hoped that his friends may hereafter have the pleasure of seeing such a biography in print.

The Late Alexander B. Johnson.

[From the Utica Daily Observer of Sept. 12, 1867.]

[On our first page to-day, will be found a comprehensive obituary notice, chiefly historical, of our late honored fellow-citizen, ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON. The following notice furnished at a later hour, and prepared by a gentleman who enjoyed a long and intimate acquaintance with the deceased, will be read with at least equal interest, from its admirable analysis of his marked character, and of the habits of mind that governed his life.]

If Mr. JOHNSON's character could be faithfully portrayed and analyzed, it would be a study of peculiar interest. In many respects he was widely unlike other men. He was an independent thinker; little swayed by the judgment and opinions of others; but deciding and acting upon his own convictions. He was conscientious, single-minded, and frank. He was fond of writing; and his style was as much his own as Mr. Carlyle's style is his own. Although not a scholar as the result of scholarly training,

he had highly cultivated his intellect by extensive, reflective and studious reading. The turn of his mind was eminently philosophical; and it betrayed that characteristic in the most ordinary conversation. His writings are full of thought. Even those ideas which may seem commonplaces dressed in a novel and peculiar garb, have some necessary connection with those of a deeper meaning which they serve to elucidate. As he evidently thought with labor, so he is to be read with labor. The consecutiveness of his reasoning is close sometimes to obscurity. His illustrations and allusions, though often homely, are always apposite and direct. Having trained his own mind to the clear comprehension of a topic, his next effort was to make his reflections and logic equally clear to other minds. His knowledge of English and of the radical primitive force of words was uncommon, and the result of unusual painstaking and curious diligence. His *Treatise of Language* was a remarkable book for a man to produce who made no pretensions to exact scholarship, and whose life seemed to be monopolized by a devotion to Plutus. No common mind was capable of such an investigation. The labors of the counting-room and the study were constantly intermingled, and often the sheet of a treatise in hand and a current balance sheet might be seen on his table together; but the business of the day was never for a moment sacrificed to its relaxations, and the balance sheet always had the preference.

He never concealed his ambition for wealth. Every man, he said, naturally desired distinction; but the ways of acquiring it were not practically free to all, and wealth opened an avenue for those who might otherwise remain obscure. The potency of wealth, and the independence it gave to its possessor, were worthy of acquisition by all honorable means. It was a lever which might raise the humblest into consideration. Of great integrity, and a scrupulous conscience, he did not aspire to riches by the ignoble by-paths of cunning, fraud, usury, or speculation. What he amassed (and he died wealthy,) was the copious fruit of frugality, prudence, exact dealing, and persevering and systematic accumulation. He was strict to claim his own, and equally strict not to claim other men's. Rigid punctuality was what he invariably exacted, and as invariably accorded. His filial reverence was manifested by his daily visits to his aged mother, during a protracted widowhood, and during the busiest period of his own life. His household charities were liberal, and in his family

he was what might be termed profuse; but his philosophy of giving was different from that of other men. He would not give to be popular, nor because other men gave. He thought that common penury should be fully provided for, not by the uncertain, unequal, and spasmodic gifts of private charity, but by a common contribution, justly levied in due proportion to men's property and means; so that the rich few (so deemed by a loose common opinion) should not be cumbered by constant demands, measured by the judgment of those who ask rather than those who give. He cheerfully submitted to a common tax for any purpose, because that was equal; but he was not willing to be at the mercy and dictation of every applicant for aid who might presume to gauge his pecuniary ability.

He was ambitious of an honorable standing and a good name; but he would not compromise, much less sacrifice, a principle for either. He was not adapted for the common arts of popularity and self-seeking. He was recluse and studious, although by no means of an unsocial or gloomy temperament. He was peculiarly nervous, and possessed of that passive courage which will face obloquy and misjudgment of motives with quiet endurance and a firm persistence in what is believed to be right, until time shall vindicate it.

His financial career was his pride; but, educated in a school of mercantile and financial integrity and of antique virtue, he did not advance at an equal pace with the growing looseness and lack of principle which, in his later years, began to pervade the realms of finance and wealth; when trusts were more commonly betrayed than kept; when ledgers began to record lying figures instead of honest entries; and when all the arts of fraud, in which he was unversed, became the study and practice of the favored depositaries of private and public confidence. He was eminently diligent, methodical, punctual, and thorough in business, to the last moment; and no doubt the day of his death found all his affairs set in the most perfect order, and a large estate free of all complications, without anything to question or adjust.

He left a voluminous and well preserved correspondence with persons of various degrees of distinction and influence, extending through, at least, half a century, which more than anything else might show the value that was given to his opinions, and what

confidence was reposed in his judgment and integrity, by men of high reputation in various departments of civil and literary life. He has also left an autobiography, copious, and probably complete. It will be interesting, at least locally, and it will be trustworthy; for Mr. JOHNSON was not the man to fear any just judgment, or to disguise his peculiarities or his idiosyncracies, however well he might desire to stand in the opinion of men. He was not blind to his infirmities, but rather painfully conscious of them, and expected no special indulgence for them. Sensitive as he was, he did not seem to cherish resentments against men, but only against misconduct. His prejudices were not disguised; his friendships were not ostensibly ardent; he courted no man, he confided in some, but had no entangling alliances; he kept himself, from principle, in such a state of independence that no one out of his family could have a claim to demand any deviation from his maxims of conduct. His intense scrupulousness in regard to business, although sometimes seemingly harsh and austere, was nevertheless servicable to many whom indulgence might have betrayed to ruin; and his orderly industry and strictness of life were of a pattern which these loose days might well emulate. If he has not drawn his own portrait faithfully, it is safe to say it never will be drawn. He knew himself, and frankly confessed more defects than he claimed virtues; and yet a fair judge will cheerfully allow that very few men have passed so long a life, actively employed from beginning to end, with so few positive stains, and so many unassuming merits. With a different native temperament, he might, with his great abilities, have been a man of marked distinction, have stirred up more flaming friendships, and filled a wider circumference; but such as his unpretentious life was, he was willing to live it over again as on the whole satisfactory and agreeable, and chiefly to be regretted because it must end.

Mr. JOHNSON was for many years a member of the Presbyterian, and more lately of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Funeral of Alexander B. Johnson.

[From the *Utica Morning Herald* of Sept. 13, 1867.]

The funeral services of ALEXANDER B. JOHNSON took place from his late residence, 235 Genesee street, yesterday afternoon. A very large number of the first citizens of Utica were in attendance to show their great respect for the memory of the deceased. The services were in charge of the Rev. Dr. Coxe, Rector of Trinity church, and for many years pastor of Mr. JOHNSON. Rev. Drs. Van Deusen and Goodrich took charge of the services at the grave. Besides the regular burial service of the Episcopal Church, the choir of Trinity, led by Prof. Sieboth, sang the hymns "Rock of ages, cleft for me," and "I would not live away." The house grounds and street in front were thronged with people. The remains were enclosed in a casket bearing the following inscription:

ALEXANDER BRYAN JOHNSON,

Born, 29th of May, 1786,

Died 9th of September, 1867.

The casket was covered with two wreaths and a cross of white japonicas. The services at the house concluded, the remains, preceded by the clergy and Drs. Gray and Bissell, was borne to the hearse by four porters, the following named gentlemen acting as pall bearers: Judge Hiram Denio, Judge William J. Bacon, Hon. E. A. Wetmore, Hon. Rutger B. Miller, Hon. Charles S. Wilson, J. Watson Williams, Thomas R Walker and Isaiah Tiffany. The horses drawing the hearse were heavily draped. The procession to the cemetery was very long, numbering some twenty-three carriages. The remains were placed in the vault of William C. Johnson, Esq., son of the deceased.

The funeral was one of the largest that ever took place in Utica. The people who came were real mourners. Many a tear was dropped as the man who had lived so many years among them was borne away to his last resting place.

EXTRACT

From a Discourse Preached in Trinity Church, Utica,

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1867.

The Sunday following the decease of Mr. A. B. JOHNSON.

By REV. S. H. COXE, D.D.

An accustomed seat is vacant this morning of its usual occupant; one that rarely was left unoccupied, if health and presence in the city would permit; one that it will be difficult to fill. Alas, the places that have known him so long and well will know him no more forever! It is but three weeks since he worshipped with us, and although it has been longer apparent that his strength was in decline, yet we have been surprised to hear that Mr. JOHNSON was no more. Gradually, but surely, very gently, one by one, the cords of life have been dissevered. The venerable man, with the calmness of a Christian philosopher, could see the tomb opening to receive him; could smile on death, as Heavenly Hope remained; nor could I ever discover that he feared to die.

It is not mine to sketch his life and character, as connected with the world; as a man of business or a financier; especially as this has already been so ably done through the medium of the press, by those who have known him for half a century, and were well acquainted with him in these relations. But it is mine to view him rather in his relation to the Church, and to breathe, as time will permit, a few thoughts in sympathy with his mourning family and the bereaved Parish, of which he was so prominent and honored a member. Allow me to give utterance to my personal feelings of attachment and respect, for I have uniformly

found in the deceased, a kind and highly valued friend—one in whom it was my happiness to confide; to whom I could look up for judicious counsel, with profound regard.

It is true that he had his peculiarities of thought and action; and why not? connected as these were with peculiar abilities and virtues. It is right, and in accordance with the divine will, that every man should be *HIMSELF*—original, peculiar. As well might we expect all men to look alike in feature and in form, as to think, and act, and be alike. Mr. JOHNSON was formed and moulded by the Creator's hand to be one, of whom it may be truly said,

None but himself can be his parallel.

But the course of his life, so far as I have known it through the last ten years, has been not only intensely interesting, but in many respects, a model. A most affectionate father; a most indulgent husband; rejoicing with his family when they rejoiced, and weeping with them when they wept; industrious, active, principled and wise, systematic, accurate, exact; a man of the most extensive observation, culture, erudition; whose correspondence with many of the greatest men of both hemispheres has been carefully archived; an honored citizen, pursuing noiselessly and unobtrusively the even tenor of his exalted way, like a deep river in its onward course; as a Christian, not only always present, if possible, in the worshipping congregation, but never omitting, as alas, many do, to do that which the Saviour commanded in remembrance of him; illustrating that in the right hand of wisdom there is length of days, and in her left hand riches and honor; an octogenarian patriarch, who has beheld his children's children, and peace upon Israel:—

He was a man, take him for all in all,
We ne'er shall look upon his like again.

Mr. JOHNSON was eminently a *thinker*. He did that with the mind God had given him, which comparatively few mortals attempt—he *thought*; and, like the wise old masters, drew knowledge from himself. The very titles of his books indicate no ordinary man; and, of themselves, require thought to appreciate them. For example: "THE MEANING OF WORDS ANALYZED;" "THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE SENSES;" "RELIGION IN ITS RELATION TO THE PRESENT LIFE;" "AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INSTRUCTION;"

or Apologues and Breviats, on Man and Manners;" "DEEP SEA SOUNDINGS; or the Ultimate Analysis of Human Knowledge." But as a specimen of his recent thought on religious subjects, I am tempted to produce here a few sentences of his own, which may be regarded as parochial, having been presented in a letter to me, occasioned by my own discourse to you, on Ritualism, and subsequent conversation with him on that subject. His letter bears the date of May 7, 1867.

"The intellect conceives religion to be a unit; but the intellect can also analyze the unit into three distinct and inconvertible entities, namely, into doctrine, ceremony and piety. Man is likewise a unit in the contemplation of the intellect; but the intellect can analyze him into three distinct and inconvertible organisms; namely, into physical, intellectual and emotional. Each of these organisms claims a part of religion; doctrine is the intellectual part; ceremony is the physical part; and piety is the emotional part. Man's emotional organism pertains to him under all doctrines and ceremonies; and I doubt not piety is felt alike by Jews and Turks, infidels and idolaters, Mormons, and occasionally by avowed Atheists. The great elements in which religions differ, are in doctrines and ceremonies. The intellect is the freest part of our nature, and each sect holds its members to the same doctrine by only an enforced agreement; for naturally no two men ever thought alike without an artificial concert; and hence we may see the impossibility of all sects uniting in one doctrine. The ceremonial part of religion is physical, and like all our physical actions, the ceremonial part is much under the dictation of the intellect, and somewhat of the emotions. When a clergyman turns up his eyes to heaven, the physical turning up is dictated by the emotional feelings. Ceremonial religion, and which I call physical, has been almost as effective as doctrine in dividing Christians into conflicting sects. Now I suppose the difference which divides our Church into high and low, relates to what I term physical religion; and deeming it thus relatively unessential, I prefer the kind of ceremonial which is most effective in engaging the congregations of the Church, and exciting most the feeling of piety in the worshippers."

In this connection I am pleased to notice the gas arch before you, which, originally the gift of Mr. JOHNSON, has recently, by his orders, been surmounted with a cross and bronzed, and is now made a permanent fixture in our Church. It has but just been completed, and fastened in its place. I would that his own appreciating eyes might have beheld it in its radiant brightness; but now that they are opening on far more brilliant scenes, and be-

coming dazzled with the excellent glory, it is a consolation to us to possess it, and to know that his name is thus associated in the Church for a memorial, with the legacy of light and with the uplifted cross.

But he is gone! the old familiar face, rich in years, in wisdom, and knowledge; in all the experience that this world can give, and in prospect of the better life to come. The Husband, the Father, the Philosopher, the Sage, the Author, the good Citizen, the Christian gentleman, all in one, are gone. I congratulate his children that they so long had such a father:—

Then saw in death his eyelids close,
Calmly, as to a night's repose,
Like flowers at set of sun.

I congratulate the city of Utica, that it so long had such a citizen, and can now enrol another honored name on the list of treasured ones before. I congratulate this Parish that he has so been identified with its history, and that his delight was to worship here. Let me commend to the attention of the young especially, his published declaration, that "It is their special duty to attend the divine services of Sunday; and that if he was to go through life again, he would not give employment to any young man who did not habitually attend Church."

Brethren, and friends, "Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live forever?" triumphantly may we not inquire? Yes, with the patriarchs, apostles and martyrs, and all the holy saints, in the bosom of felicity, and the kingdom of God, *forever*. Be it ours to follow them, as they have followed Christ, that we too may come to those unspeakable joys, which are their immortal inheritance, and be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

End of
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